GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:250
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
DUTY FREE SHOPS AT AIRPORTS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a)Whether the Government has imposed restrictions on purchase in duty free shops at the airports;

(b) If so, the details and reasons therefor ;

(c) Whether there is any proposal to relax restrictions and to simplify the procedure to offset the losses by the shops;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefor ? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) & (b):- Pursuant to report that terrorist outfits in United Kingdom (UK) have devised a new modus operandi to smuggle components of an IED on board an aircraft as part of hand baggage to avoid normal screening procedure, instructions have been issued vide Bureau of Civil Aviation Security Circular No.14/2006 dated 11.8.2006 prohibiting carriage by passengers in cabin baggage or on person of liquid items/gel/ paste or other items of similar consistency except medicine/inhaler accompanied by prescription and baby food . In partial modification of the above mentioned circular, procedure have been prescribed on 29.8.2006 for carriage of duty free items purchased from duty free shops. As per the procedure certain restrictions have been put on the owners of the duty free shops such as all duty free items shall be sold under proper cash receipts incorporating the name of the passengers, seat No;, name of carrier; the items shall be handed over to the passengers at the gate of the aircraft after proper security check etc. There is however no direct restriction on purchases in duty free shops at airports.

(c), (d) & (e):- Review of the instruction/procedures are undertaken periodically to make them more passenger friendly and this is a continuous process .